THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has forecast a nominal increase of 15.9% in the capital expenditure of the private corporate sector during 1992-93 over the capital expenditure in 1991-92.

(b) The mobilisation of household savings by the private corporate sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan is estimated at Rs. 58.770 crores at 1991-92 prices.

(c) The capital issues by the private corporate sector are not subject to prior approval by the Government. These issues are subject to the disclosure and investor protection Guidelines laid down by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Proposal to Float Gold Bonds

3232. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government" consideration to float a Gold Bond cheme in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Attention is invited in this connection to paragraph 20 of the speech of the Finance Minister introducing the Union Budget for the year 1992-93, which is enclosed herewith. [See below] The matter is being processed.

PARAGRAPH 20 OF FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH INTRODUCING THE UNION BUDGET 1992-93

Many Honourable Members of this House have suggested that the Government should introduce a Gold Bond, which would help to mobilise the idle gold resources of ordinary citizens to supplement official reserves. I had indicated in Parliament that this should be considered only when the balance of payments situation improves and adequate confidence has been built in the capacity of the Government to manage the economy. This has now been achieved. Our reserves are large and do not need supplementing, but I see no reason why patriotic citizens should be denied the opportunity to contribute their mite to the development of India's economy. I propose to introduce a scheme under which citizens can obtain a Gold Bond in return for gold. The bond would be for a period of five to seven years and would be liquidated by return of gold or equivalent value, at the option of the holder. It would enjoy a small interest, which will not attract income-tax. The Bonds will also be free of wealth tax and gift tax. As an added incentive, holders of such bonds will not be asked it any questions about the source of the gold holding. The Reserve Bank of India is preparing a detailed proposal along these lines.

Gold Seizures at Airports

3233. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of gold confiscated at various airports during the last three years;

(b) how many cases of prosecution arising out of this confiscation have been made and on how many persons; during this period;

(c) what has been the fate of these cases; and

(d) what are the regulations for the storage and disposal of this confiscated gold?